

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 L-03 AID-05 /056 W

----- 123145

R 301605Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0783

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0793

DAKAR FOR LABAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS GV

SUBJECT: STRIKE IN FRIA PUT DOWN BY FORCE

REF: CONAKRY 0698

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED RECENT STRIKE AT FRIA (REFTEL) WITH FRIGUIA
(PECHINCY) OFFICIAL (FRENCH NATIONAL) ON MAY 28. HE SAID;

A. STRIKE BEGAN APPROXIMATELY MAY 11 WITH ADMINISTRATIVE
AND TECHNICALLY-TRAINED GUINEAN EMPLOYEES OF FRIGUIA BAUXITE/
ALUMINA CMOMPLEX. THIS GROUP HAS ACQUIRED CERTAIN PREREQUISITES
IN HOUSING AND CARS OVER RECENT YEARS, AND FRIGUIA (WITH GOG
CONCURRENCE) HAD DECIDED TO RAISE COMMISSARY PRICES FOR THIS
GROUP BRINGING THEIR LIVING STANDARDS AND BENEFITS IN LINE
WITH OTHER WORKERS. NEGATIVE REACTION TO THESE MEASURES SPREAD
TO OTHER LOWER-LEVEL WORKERS.

B. THE STRIKE WAS BROKEN BY GOG TROOPS, WHO OCCUPIED
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THE FRIGUIA OFFICES FOR AT LEAST TWO DAYS, ARRESTED 15-20

PEOPLE, AND SENT AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF WORKERS
BACK TO THEIR HOME VILLAGES IN THE BUSH.

C. EVEN THOUGH THE STRIKE WAS COMPLETELY BROKEN IN A
FEW DAYS, THERE IS STILL WIDESPREAD WORKER DISCONTENT AND
PRODUCTION IS LIKELY TO BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED IN THE FUTURE,
ALTHOUGH THE PECHINEY OFFICIAL COULD PROVIDE NO SPECIFIC
ESTIMATES.

2. EMBOFF VISITED CBG/KAMSAR PROJECT MAY 24-25. WHILE OFFICIALS
THERE WERE GENERALLY AWARE OF THE FRIA STRIKE, THERE HAD BEEN NO
FALLOUT AT CBG OPERATIONS, AND WE HAVE SEEN NO SIGN THAT FRIA
PROBLEMS HAVE HAD ANY EFFECT ELSEWHERE IN GUINEA.
HARROP

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